AGENDA ITEM VII B

PROGRESS REPORTS ON CONDITIONALLY APPROVED PROGRAMS/CENTERS

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE

CENTER FOR BIOMODULAR MICROSYSTEMS (CBM)

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At its meeting of January, 2006, the Board of Regents acted as follows:

> ***Approval is granted for the Center for BioModular Microsystems at Louisiana State University and A&M College for a period of three years, effective immediately. By March 1, 2006, the University shall submit to the Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs an update which addresses financial concerns expressed in the staff summary.***

The Center had already secured funding for three years of operation by means of an NSF EPSCoR grant to the Board of Regents. A budget was provided, but there were no specific indications of the sources and distributions of a $500K annual participating contribution. The proposal also described necessary facilities renovations that appeared to incur state costs. Had monies already been appropriated for that purpose, or did the University anticipate such funding in the future? The Board asked that these two issues be addressed in a future report.

The staff also observes that the Center calls itself the "Center for Biomodular *Multi-Scale* Systems."

STAFF SUMMARY

1. Matching Fund Recovery

From the report, it appears that the University plans to recoup its $500k match for EPSCoR funding by means of indirect cost recoveries from additional grants. For example, the CBM is preparing a pre-proposal application to the NSF for $4.5M of infrastructure support over the next five years. Another grant is under review at the NIH. The Center has also been selected to participate in EPSCoR at a higher funding level (i.e. $2.35M). It appears funding will be sufficient to recoup the initial institutional match.

2. Facility Renovation Costs

It appears that LSU invested $2.5M in a 35k sq. ft. research building for the Center to develop it into a viable multi-scale fabrication hub involving other institutions as well. Partnerships with the private sector have resulted in three funded relationships with the Center. "Technology transfer" projects are ongoing.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee receive the Progress Report from the Center for Biomodular Microsystems at Louisiana State University and A&M College. No further reports are required until the Center applies for reauthorization by January 1, 2009.